

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage Field Office
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) FORM

CX No.: AK-040-03-CX-034

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: A-059905

Proposed Action Title/Types:

Removal of abandoned automobiles via helicopter sling load from the Knik River Access Site.

Location of Proposed Action: Section 10, T. 16 N., R. 1 E., Seward Meridian. The site is located off the Glenn Highway adjacent to the north bank of the Knik River.

Description of Proposed Action:

A contractor will provide all labor, materials, and equipment to remove and properly dispose of two abandoned cars from isolated locations on the Knik River Access Site. The concept is that the contractor will rig and sling load via helicopter the cars from their present location to the nearby access road. The contractor will then transport the cars via highway to an automobile salvage/wrecking yard. Both vehicles (1970's vintage) were abandoned years ago and can now only be reached by foot or helicopter due to dense forest growth. The distance from vehicle 1 to the road is about 100 yards. The distance for vehicle 2 to the road is about ½ mile. See the attached photos and site sketches. Lifting vehicle 1 will create little or no disturbance of the surface or vegetation. Lifting of vehicle 2 may require felling of a few trees which create a mast and overhead clearance obstacle for the sling load lift. The project must be completed by September 30 in order to use FY-03 year-end funds and meet the timeline for conveyance of the property to the State of Alaska.

Applicant (if any): Bureau of Land Management
Anchorage Field Office

PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This Proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan: Southcentral Planning Area Management Framework Plan

Date Plan Approved: March 1980

The Proposed Action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1617.3).

PART II - NEPA REVIEW

A. Categorical Exclusion Review.

This Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 2, Appendix 1. or 516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4. H-10: *Removal of structures and materials of nonhistorical value, such as abandoned automobiles, fences, and buildings, including those built in trespass, and reclamation of the site when little or no surface disturbance is involved.*

B. Departmental Exceptions Review.

The following Departmental List of Exceptions apply to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that environmental documents **MUST BE PREPARED** for actions which may: (Mark applicable answer for each item. If "yes", prepare an EA/EIS and append this form to it.)

- | | | YES | NO |
|----|--|-----|--------------|
| 1. | Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety. | ___ | ___ <u>X</u> |
| 2. | Have adverse effects on unique geographic characteristics, historic or cultural resources, park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks. | ___ | ___ <u>X</u> |
| 3. | Have highly controversial environmental effects. | ___ | ___ <u>X</u> |
| 4. | Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. | ___ | ___ <u>X</u> |
| 5. | Establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. | ___ | ___ <u>X</u> |
| 6. | Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant environmental effects. | ___ | ___ <u>X</u> |
| 7. | Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. | ___ | ___ <u>X</u> |
| 8. | Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated critical habitat for these species. | ___ | ___ <u>X</u> |

YES NO

9. Require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Flood plain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. X
10. Threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. X

I certify that none of the Departmental exceptions listed in the above Part B (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) apply to this action.

Remarks:

Preparer(s): Larry Beck Date: September 18, 2003

PART III – DECISION

I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with the mitigation measures either identified below or stipulation(s) attached in this case file.

Remarks:

Authorized Official: /s/ June Bailey Date: September 18, 2003